

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

**SOCIAL POSITIONING INPUT
SYSTEMS, LLC,**

Plaintiff,

v.

**FORWARD THINKING SYSTEMS
LLC**

Defendant.

CASE NO. 2:22-cv-00150-JMA-AYS

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

PATENT CASE

**FORWARD THINKING SYSTEMS LLC’S ANSWER, AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES,
AND COUNTERCLAIMS TO PLAINTIFF’S COMPLAINT**

Defendant Forward Thinking Systems LLC (“FTS” or “Defendant”) files this Answer, Affirmative Defenses, and Counterclaims to Plaintiff Social Positioning Input Systems, LLC’s (“Plaintiff” or “Social Positioning”) Complaint for Patent Infringement (“Complaint”). FTS denies the allegations and characterizations in Plaintiff’s Complaint unless expressly admitted in the following paragraphs.¹

PARTIES AND JURISDICTION

1. FTS admits that the Complaint purports to set forth an action for infringement under the Patent Laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 1, *et seq.*

2. FTS admits that this Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

3. FTS is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 3 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

¹ For avoidance of doubt, FTS denies liability for all allegations of patent infringement included or implied in the introductory paragraph or in any headings of the Complaint.

4. FTS admits that it has a principal office at 575 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 301, Jericho, NY 11753, but denies that it has an agent named “The LLC” at the same address.

5. FTS does not contest that the Court has personal jurisdiction over it in this case. FTS admits that it conducts business in the State of New York. FTS denies it has committed or is committing acts of infringement within this district or elsewhere and, on that basis, denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 5 of the Complaint.

6. FTS admits that it has used, imported, offered for sale, or sold instrumentalities in this District. FTS denies it has committed or is committing acts of infringement within this district or elsewhere and, on that basis, denies the remaining allegations of Paragraph 6 of the Complaint

VENUE

7. FTS does not contest that venue is proper in this case, but denies that venue is convenient.

COUNT I

(ALLEGED) INFRINGEMENT OF UNITED STATES PATENT NO. 9,261,365

8. FTS incorporates paragraphs 1 through 7 herein by reference.

9. FTS admits that the Complaint purports to set forth an action for infringement under the Patent Laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. §§ 271, *et seq.*

10. FTS is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 10 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

11. FTS admits that a purported copy of U.S. Patent No. 9,261,365 (the “365 Patent”) is attached to the Complaint as Exhibit A and that the face of that patent indicates that it

is entitled “Device, System and Method for Remotely Entering, Storing and Sharing Addresses for a Positional Information Device.”

12. FTS denies the allegations in Paragraph 12 of the Complaint.

13. FTS denies the allegations in Paragraph 13 of the Complaint.

14. FTS denies the allegations in Paragraph 14 of the Complaint.

15. FTS denies the allegations in Paragraph 15 of the Complaint.

16. FTS denies the allegations in Paragraph 16 of the Complaint.

17. FTS denies the allegations in Paragraph 17 of the Complaint.

18. FTS denies the allegations in Paragraph 18 of the Complaint.

19. FTS denies the allegations in Paragraph 19 of the Complaint.

20. FTS is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in Paragraph 20 of the Complaint and, on that basis, denies all such allegations.

[PLAINTIFF’S] JURY DEMAND

21. FTS is not required to provide a response to Plaintiff’s Jury Demand.

[PLAINTIFF’S] PRAYER FOR RELIEF

FTS denies the Plaintiff is entitled to any relief from FTS and denies all the allegations contained in Paragraphs A-E (including any subparts) of Plaintiff’s Prayer for Relief.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

FTS’s Affirmative Defenses are listed below. FTS reserves the right to amend its answer to add additional Affirmative Defenses consistent with the facts discovered in this case.

FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

FTS has not infringed and does not infringe, under any theory of infringement (including directly (whether individually or jointly) or indirectly (whether contributorily or by inducement)), any valid, enforceable claim of the ’365 Patent.

SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Each asserted claim of the ‘365 Patent is invalid for failure to comply with one or more of the requirements of the United States Code, Title 35, including without limitation, 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and 112, and the rules, regulations, and laws pertaining thereto.

THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

To the extent that Plaintiff and any predecessors in interest to the ‘365 Patent failed to properly mark any of their relevant products or materials as required by 35 U.S.C. § 287, or otherwise give proper notice that FTS’s actions allegedly infringe the ‘365 Patent, FTS is not liable to Plaintiff for the acts alleged to have been performed before FTS received actual notice that it was allegedly infringing the ‘365 Patent.

FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

To the extent that Plaintiff asserts that FTS indirectly infringes, either by contributory infringement or inducement of infringement, FTS is not liable to Plaintiff for the acts alleged to have been performed before FTS knew that its actions would cause indirect infringement.

FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The claims of the ‘365 Patent are not entitled to a scope sufficient to encompass any system employed or process practiced by FTS.

SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

To the extent Plaintiff contends that it alleges a claim for indirect infringement (whether by inducement or contributorily), Plaintiff has failed to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff’s Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted because the ‘365 Patent does not claim patent eligible subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted because, among other things, Plaintiff has not stated a plausible allegation that any system employed by FTS practices: "sending a request from a requesting positional information device to a server for at least one address stored in at least one sending positional information device, the request including a first identifier of the requesting positional information device"; and "receiving at the requesting positional information device, from the server, a retrieved at least one address to the requesting positional information device wherein the server determines a second identifier for identifying the at least one sending positional information device based on the received first identifier and retrieves the requested at least one address stored in the identified at least one sending positional information device"; as required by Claim 1 of the '365 Patent.

NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff is estopped, based on statements, representations, and admissions made during prosecution of the patent application resulting in the asserted patent, from asserting any interpretation of any valid, enforceable claims of the '365 Patent that would be broad enough to cover any accused product alleged to infringe the asserted patent, either literally or by application of the doctrine of equivalents.

TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's claims for damages are statutorily limited or barred by 35 U.S.C. §§ 286 and 287. Plaintiff is further barred under 35 U.S.C. § 288 from recovering costs associated with its action.

ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff is precluded from recovering its reasonable attorney's fees, costs, and or increased damages under 35 U.S.C. §§ 284 or 285.

TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Should FTS be found to infringe any valid, enforceable claim of the ‘365 Patent, such infringement was not willful.

FTS’S COUNTERCLAIMS

For its counterclaims against Plaintiff Social Positioning Input Systems, LLC (“Social Positioning”), Counterclaim Plaintiff Forward Thinking Systems LLC (“FTS”), alleges as follows:

PARTIES

1. Counterclaim Plaintiff FTS is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of New York that maintains its principal place of business at 575 Jericho Turnpike, Suite 301, Jericho, NY 11753.

2. Upon information and belief based solely on Paragraph 1 of the Complaint as pled by Plaintiff, Counterclaim Defendant Social Positioning Input Systems, LLC is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of Wyoming that maintains its principal place of business at 1 East Broward Boulevard, Suite 700, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301.

JURISDICTION

3. FTS incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1–2 above.

4. These counterclaims arise under the patent laws of the United States, Title 35, United States Code. The jurisdiction of this Court is proper under at least 35 U.S.C. § 271 *et seq.*, and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338, 1367, and 2201–02.

5. Social Positioning has consented to the personal jurisdiction of this Court at least by commencing its action for patent infringement in this District, as set forth in its Complaint.

6. Based solely on Social Positioning’s filing of this action, venue is proper for

purposes of these counterclaims in this District pursuant at least 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400.

COUNT I

DECLARATION REGARDING NON-INFRINGEMENT OF THE '365 PATENT

7. FTS incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1–6 above.

8. Based on Social Positioning’s filing of this action and at least FTS’s first affirmative defense, an actual controversy has arisen and now exists between the parties as to whether FTS infringes U.S. Patent No. 9,261,365 (the “‘365 Patent”).

9. FTS does not infringe at least Claim 1 of the ‘365 Patent because, *inter alia*, the accused system, Plaintiff has not stated a plausible allegation that any system employed by FTS practices: “sending a request from a requesting positional information device to a server for at least one address stored in at least one sending positional information device, the request including a first identifier of the requesting positional information device”; and “receiving at the requesting positional information device, from the server, a retrieved at least one address to the requesting positional information device wherein the server determines a second identifier for identifying the at least one sending positional information device based on the received first identifier and retrieves the requested at least one address stored in the identified at least one sending positional information device.”

10. Pursuant to the Federal Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201 *et seq.*, FTS requests a declaration by the Court that FTS has not infringed and does not infringe any claim of the ‘365 Patent under any theory (including directly (whether individually or jointly) or indirectly (whether contributorily or by inducement)).

COUNT II

DECLARATION REGARDING INVALIDITY

11. FTS incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1–10 above.

12. Based on Social Positioning's filing of this action and at least FTS's Second Affirmative Defense, an actual controversy has arisen and now exists between the parties as to the validity of the claims of the '365 Patent.

13. On information and belief, the claims of the '365 Patent are invalid for failure to comply with one or more of the requirements of United States Code, Title 35, and the rules, regulations, and laws pertaining thereto.

14. For example, as explained in ABP's Motion to Dismiss pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6), incorporated by reference herein, the '365 Patent is invalid for failure to comply with 35 U.S.C. § 101. As explained, the '365 Patent claims nothing more than an abstract idea, and it fails to claim an inventive concept.

15. Pursuant to the Federal Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201 *et seq.*, FTS requests a declaration by the Court that the claims of the '365 Patent are invalid for failure to comply with one or more of the requirements of United States Code, Title 35, including without limitation, 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and 112, and the rules, regulations, and laws pertaining thereto.

16. FTS does not have an adequate remedy at law.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, FTS asks this Court to enter judgment in FTS's favor and against Social Positioning by granting the following relief:

- a) a declaration that the '365 Patent is invalid;
- b) a declaration that FTS does not infringe, under any theory, any valid claim of the '365 Patent that may be enforceable;
- c) a declaration that Social Positioning take nothing by its Complaint;

- d) judgment against Social Positioning and in favor of FTS;
- e) dismissal of the Complaint with prejudice;
- f) a finding that this case is an exceptional case under 35 U.S.C. § 285 and an award to FTS of its costs and attorneys' fees incurred in this action; and
- g) further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

FTS hereby demands trial by jury on all issues.

Dated: February 8, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.

By: /s/ Neil J. McNabnay

Neil J. McNabnay

Ricardo J. Bonilla (*pro hac vice* to be filed)

Noel Chakkalakal (*pro hac vice* to be filed)

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**ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT,
FORWARD THINKING SYSTEMS LLC**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that on February 8, 2022, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was filed with the Clerk of the Court using the Court's CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to all counsel of record.

/s/ Neil J. McNabnay

Neil J. McNabnay